

Message Text

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22

ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:DGBROWN:JWG

APPROVED BY EA/ROC:DGBROWN

EA/PRCM - J AUBERT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

INFO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176827

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, TW

SUBJECT: TAIPEI - MATSU CABLE

1. JOHN MCINTYRE, THE PRESIDENT OF SIMPLEX WIRE AND CABLE, HAS INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT OF HIS COMPANY'S NEGOTIATIONS OVER PAST 18 MONTHS WITH THE ROC MND CONCERNING PROJECT TO LAY AN UNDERSEA CABLE FROM TAIPEI VIA TAMSUI AND TUNG-YIN SHAN ISLAND TO MATSU. (A SIMILAR CABLE WAS LAID TO QUEMOY SEVERAL YEARS AGO.) DURING AN EARLY JULY VISIT TO TAIPEI, SIMPLEX AND MND PREPARED PRELIMINARY CONTRACT FOR THIS DOLS. 13 MILLION PROJECT, AND MCINTYRE EXPECTS THAT FINAL CONTRACT WILL BE SIGNED IN TAIPEI BY EARLY AUGUST. SIMPLEX THEN PLANS TO UNDERTAKE THREE WEEK SURVEY OF CABLE ROUTE BEGINNING IN LATE AUGUST. AS CONSTRUCTION AND SHIPPING OF CABLE WILL REQUIRE ABOUT 2 YEARS, THE CABLE WOULD NOT BE LAID UNTIL LATE 78 OR 79. THE ACTUAL LAYING WILL REQUIRE ABOUT FOUR DAYS. MCINTYRE EMPHASIZED HIS AND MND'S DESIRE THAT THIS INFORMATION BE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY.

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2. EA/ROC HAS DISCUSSED WITH MCINTYRE THE PROSPECTS FOR

DOING BUSINESS IN TAIWAN AND THE PARTICULAR SENSITIVITY OF UNDERTAKINGS INVOLVING THE OFFSHORE ISLANDS. WHILE LEAVING BUSINESS DECISION TO COMPANY, WE HAVE ADVISED SIMPLEX TO MINIMIZE VISIBLE US PRESENCE IN THOSE ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT THAT TAKE PLACE NEAR THE OFFSHORE ISLANDS. MCINTYRE HAS STATED THAT THE SURVEY SHIP, AND MOST PROBABLY THE CABLE LAYING SHIP ALSO, WILL NOT BE US FLAG. HE INTENDS TO REMAIN IN TOUCH WITH DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY AS PROJECT PROCEEDS, AND WE HAVE ENCOURAGED HIM TO DO THIS.

KISSINGER

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NNN

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